

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1 of the specification under the heading "CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS," please amend the first paragraph as follows:

This application is a Continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/898,132, filed July 3, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,852,285, which is a Continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/127,382, filed July 31, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,284,197, which is a Continuation-in-Part of U.S. Application No. 09/092,453, filed June 5, 1998, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.

Please delete the abstract and replace it with the following paragraph:

Interactions between molecules that are components of self-assembled monolayers and other molecules can be amplified and transduced into an optical signal through the use of a mesogenic layer. The invention provides for a method for detecting an analyte, comprising contacting with said analyte a recognition moiety for said analyte, wherein said contacting causes at least a portion of a plurality of mesogens proximate to said recognition moiety to detectably switch from a first orientation to a second orientation upon contacting said analyte with said recognition moiety; and detecting said second orientation of said at least a portion of said plurality of mesogens, whereby said analyte is detected.